

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

PRAYER FOR AMERICA

HON. PATRICK J. TOOMEY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 29, 2001

Mr. TOOMEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to share a poem entitled "Prayer For America" written by Miss Ruth Werner, a constituent of mine who lives in Bangor, Pennsylvania. Miss Werner was inspired to pen this poem following the September 11th attacks. I was touched when she gave me this poem and thought that my colleagues in the House of Representatives, the Senate and President Bush would enjoy it as well.

PRAYER FOR AMERICA

Dear Heavenly Father,
We pray for peace on earth.
Let it begin with us.
With you as our Father we are all made one.
We are all brothers and sisters.
Let us walk in each other in all 50 states and
throughout the world with President
Bush, Vice President Cheney and all the
Leaders.
With children and adults, male and female,
with families and people who are lonely,
with rich and poor, with people who have
homes and the homeless;
With all kinds of people with different car-
reers and with the unemployed;
You love all your children of the world
whether red, yellow, black or white.
We are all precious in your sight because you
love everyone with an unconditional
love; always ready to forgive.
Today God let this be our prayer because we
know that United We Stand Divided We
Fall.
Let us stand for peace for America, a most
beautiful land.
And let us keep this as one nation under you
with liberty and justice for all.
It makes us proud to be an American to be
among the red, white and blue as we are
just passing through, but most impor-
tantly we are honored to be Christians
who believe in you and will live with you
and our loved ones in our heavenly home
forever.
God we know you will bless the USA today
and always.
In your name we pray, AMEN
I commend Miss Werner for her heartfelt
words and for her dedication to God and
country.

COMMEMORATING WORLD AIDS DAY 2001

HON. CARRIE P. MEEK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 29, 2001

Mrs. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, this Saturday, the nation and the World will observe World AIDS Day 2001.

World AIDS Day provides an opportunity to focus the world's attention on this global pandemic. It is a day to remember those living

with AIDS and those who have died from the disease.

Like our recent tragedy, the HIV/AIDS pandemic has challenged many to have courage and hope in spite of grief, anger, and despair. More than 60 million people worldwide have been infected with HIV since the start of the epidemic 20 years ago, and current statistics point to an even greater spread of the disease than anticipated.

HIV/AIDS is now the leading cause of death in sub-Saharan Africa. Worldwide, it is the fourth biggest killer. According to a United Nations report, by the end of this year there will be an estimated 40 million people living with HIV worldwide.

In the United States, research has shown that the number of AIDS cases among some populations has decreased. Unfortunately, we have not seen similar declines in new HIV cases among people of color or our Nation's youth. Today, at least half of all new HIV infections in our country are among people under age 25. Young Americans between the ages of 13 and 25 are contracting HIV at the rate of two per hour.

World AIDS Day has special significance in my community of South Florida, which has more HIV/AIDS cases than 44 states.

As we observe World AIDS Day 2001, we must reaffirm our commitment to work together to protect all our citizens from the threat of HIV. By promoting, education, research and care, we can reach millions of individuals who face life-changing decisions that can affect their health and the future of our Nation and the world, and help those who are already affected by this disease.

INTRODUCTION OF A SIMPLE RESOLUTION TO ENCOURAGE THE PRESIDENT TO USE HIS POWER TO RELEASE LIHEAP EMERGENCY FUNDS TO THOSE WHO LOST THEIR JOBS AS A RESULT OF 9/11/01

HON. HILDA L. SOLIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 29, 2001

Ms. SOLIS. Mr. Speaker, hundreds of thousands of people who recently have been laid off from work are reliving the terrorist attacks in the economic aftermath of September 11th.

As of today, 638,000 layoffs have already been announced in our country.

Fewer than 2 out of 5 employers who have handed out pink slips in the third quarter of this year indicate that they anticipate calling their laid off employees back to work.

The nation's unemployment rate soared from 4.9 percent in September to 5.4 percent in October.

In Los Angeles County the unemployment rate is 6 percent.

In my congressional district, the City of El Monte has an unemployment rate of 7.6 per-

cent and South El Monte has an unemployment rate of 9.3 percent.

All of this in time for Christmas—and the cold winter to follow.

It is our duty—and responsibility—to help those who are suffering the ripple effects of the worst domestic attack in our country's history.

We need to act immediately, because the federal government's assistance is needed now.

The resolution that I bring before the House today would encourage the President to answer this immediate need by expanding the Low Income Energy Assistance Program—LIHEAP.

The LIHEAP program is a federally funded block grant program that helps ease the energy cost burden of low-income households.

The need for this program has been great.

Residential heating oil prices were 48 percent higher in 2000 than in 1999.

Residential natural gas prices were 44 percent higher in 2000 than in 1999.

Higher prices mean an added burden to those who are already struggling to make ends meet.

As you can imagine, Mr. Speaker, there are many more people who will need this energy assistance because of our country's recent tragedies.

Unfortunately, the more people there are—the less there is to go around.

LIHEAP has two pots of money—one which goes to States in the form of a block grant and another that is distributed by the President for emergency use.

This resolution will encourage the President to use this emergency fund in our current time of uncertainty to help those who have lost their jobs as a result of the attack on our nation.

We must act now to get our country's working families through this horrible time.

The other body has already passed a similar resolution.

I encourage my colleagues to adopt this resolution and ask the President to use his powers to release LIHEAP funds to those who have lost their jobs in the wake of the September 11th terrorist attacks and to those that have suffered prolonged unemployment since early this year.

This bill is a step in the right direction and could mean the difference between a family's financial ruin and their foundation for the future.

RECOGNIZING THE SERVICE OF EDWARD JESSER

HON. MARGE ROUKEMA

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 29, 2001

Mrs. ROUKEMA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Mr. Edward "Ned" Jesser, resident of Mahwah, New Jersey, and proud

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